

The Newsletter

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SWAN LAKE

CURRENT AND ONGOING PROJECTS:

- More cleanup and painting.
- New Internet connection.

November 2007 ended with one solid day of pouring rain. In the desert rain is welcome like nowhere else. The last time it rained this much was 3 years ago, so naturally November 30th 2007 was a special day for us desert dwellers.

This day brought enough rain to make what we have named "Swan Lake", one of the reasons for the name being it's namesake, our very good friend Steve Swan, who came up with the idea of building a dam. The dam is not quite finished yet. However judging by the result of the downpour and the hard work by Robert and many of our friends, successful is within reach. The idea behind the dam is obviously to collect water. The chosen location is

to make use of the natural shape of the terrain close to where the well is. Our plan and hope is that the dam will help direct water back to the underground location from where our well is supplied.



If we are lucky, perhaps we will get a few more batches of good rain, enough for the dam to collect and contain water we can splash round in when the hot season returns in a few months.

This morning at 8AM when these photos were taken, there was a thin crust of ice in

the surface along the shore. Ice skating will have to wait though.

At any rate this is quite exciting, not to mention the change it brings to the scenery. There is a lot of work still before the well will be in use, and a lot of other work and projects to be completed first.

Living in this gorgeous and remote spot provides us not only with tranquility, but also projects to fill any spare time.

Maybe one of these days I'll be able to park my Viking Ship a few feet from my desert home.

HILDE FONDA
JOSHUA TREE
CALIFORNIA
December 2007



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

One of my favorite kind of day is a crisp, clear, cold winter day. Yes, I know! I live in the desert, and deserts get scorching hot, but they also are quite cold at times. The only day that is better even than the above described one, is a day of snow. Now, that kind of day brings a smile

my face every time. I remember quite a few years ago I was picking up my mother at work. I was a little early so I parked the car and went inside to meet her. She looked up when she saw me coming, and commented: "That big smile on your face must mean that it is snowing out!" No one knows one like one's

mother.

So, while Robert's favorite time in the desert are the warm summer nights, especially with a full moon rising, I'll take the cold winter mornings and days any time.

With this we send you all our best wishes for the holiday and the new year.



Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!